

January 9, 2008

Ms. Victoria J. Rutson  
Chief, Section of Environmental Analysis  
Surface Transportation Board  
395 E. Street, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Dear Ms. Rutson,

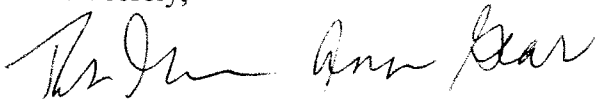
I am writing you regarding the recent Canadian National Railroad (CN) request to purchase the EJ&E freight railroad. My family and community are very concerned about the impact of this acquisition and the planned increased freight traffic through Barrington and surrounding communities. This increased traffic will have a significant negative impact on our environment, safety and value of our homes.

My home backs up to this railroad which passes along side a creek, through a park, prairie and forest preserve. By adding the additional freight traffic, I will have to be concerned about the safety of my 7 year old son and his friends who play in our back yards. We will also have to take a significant financial reduction in the value of our real estate. Face it, who wants to back up to a train line that has horns and traffic blasting all through the day and night? We will also have to endure even further commuting delays while these freight trains pass through our village. This will increase gas consumption and pollution.

This is a lose – lose situation for our community and my family, while it is a win – win for CN who will get all of the benefit from this increased traffic. Please do what is right and protect our community, environment and children.

Please take immediate action to reject this application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Robert & Ann Gear".

Robert & Ann Gear  
881 Bosworthfield  
Barrington, IL 60010  
PH: 847-381-7230